Supply of essential commodities through Public Distribution system

546. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pealsed to state:

(a) whether Government propose to add some pulses or any other commodity in the list of essential commodities to be supplied to the people through the public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Government has undertaken the responsibility for the supply of seven essential commodities viz. wheat, rice, levy sugar, imported edible oils, kerosene oil, soft coke and controlled cloth to the States/UTs for distribution through the net-work of Public Distribution System. The States/UTs are, however, free to inlnclude any other commodity under the Public Distribution System which they consider essential and for which they can make procurement and distribution arrangements on their own.

Investment on Steel Authority of India Limited's Salem Steel Plant

547. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total investment on SAIL's Salem Steel Plant, till date, together with its capacity utilisation and maintenance expenditure during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there have been some proposals under Government's consideration for better capacity utilisation and reduction of production costs of the plants; if so, what are these proposals and since when those have been under consideration; and

(c) what are the monetary consequences of delay in taking decisions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) The total investment on Salem Steel Plant till 31st March, 1988 amounts to Rs. 186.05 crores. The maintenance expenditure during the years 1984-85 to 1986-87 is given below:—

Year	Rs./Crores
1984-85	2.46
1985-86	1.85
1986-87	2.18

Capacity utilisation in Salem Steel Plant during last three years has been as under:—

(Unit %)

Year	Capacity utilisation with reference to equivalent tonnage based on DPR Product mix.
1985-86 . . .	94
1986-87 . . .	107
1987-88 . . .	116

(b) The proposal for establishment of second sendzimir mill and associated facilities at Salem Steel Plant was first received by the Government in August, 1978. Two more revised versions have since been received. Sanction of the proposal was deferred by the Government on account of resource constraints and lack of demand. On the basis of the latest demand-supply estimates made by Government it was found that there was now justification for installation of second sendzimir mill. Government have since accorded sanction on